

Docket No. M-1107 US

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IN THE CLAIMS:**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A tympanic thermometer comprising:

5 a heat sensing probe defining a longitudinal axis and an outer surface extending from a distal end of the tympanic thermometer;

an ejection apparatus including at least one finger extending from the distal end of the tympanic thermometer and being configured for movement along the outer surface of the probe toward a distal end of the probe; and

10 a probe cover being mountable to the distal end of the tympanic thermometer, the probe cover defining an inner surface configured to engage the outer surface of the probe, the probe cover including at least one longitudinal rib radially projecting from the inner surface thereof, the longitudinal rib defining a proximal face to facilitate ejection of the probe cover,

15 wherein the at least one finger is movable, to eject the probe cover, toward the distal end of the probe, along the outer surface of the probe and within the probe cover, and further is in contact with ~~is configured to engage~~ the proximal face at the inner surface of the probe cover, until the probe cover is released from the probe.

20 2. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the probe defines a groove, transversely oriented relative to the longitudinal axis, which is configured to receive a portion of the probe cover for releasably retaining the probe cover with the probe.

25 3. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 2, wherein the portion of the probe cover includes a plurality of protuberances projecting from the inner surface of the probe cover and being proximally spaced from the distal end of the probe cover.

4. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the ejection apparatus includes a plurality of fingers.